

News

In recognition of Hans Linde's contributions to the National Association for Clean Air

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.17159/2410-972X/2016/v26n2a3>

Hans Linde began with the National Association of Clean Air (NACA) in 1973. At the time he was a smoke control officer at the City of Cape Town working under Derek Oxley. He was at the beginning of his career in the Air Pollution field. Thus began a long and auspicious association between Hans and NACA. The reason for writing this piece in 2016 is because the Western Cape branch NACA would like to honour Hans as he ends yet another period of selfless service to the council of the Western Cape branch of NACA. He was in the role of secretary of the branch on this occasion.

Looking back at publications in the Clean Air Journal Hans's name is mentioned often (Grange 1994) for his role in the organization in its first 25 years. He is described as one of the "few who contributed to the successful running of the Branches" and the authors states "the Association found its strength in its Branches which have maintained it's National identity." Hans was Honorary Secretary when the Western Cape Branch ran the 1989 Annual NACA Conference at the Good Hope centre in Cape Town. The conference culminated in the following resolution "This conference resolves that the NACA Council request the State President to investigate, as a matter of urgency, an integrated environmental pollution management policy for the Republic of South Africa which will bring all aspects of Environmental Pollution Management...". It was this experience in challenging the direction of Air Quality Management that Hans brought to the Branch in 2015 when after successful branch seminar titled "Challenges of Dust Deposition Monitoring" he urged and assisted the branch in formalizing the frustrations of the delegates into a resolution stating that the current Dust Control Regulations are outdated and that no progress or resolution has yet been adopted on the method "*or equivalent method approved by any internationally recognized body*". This was put to council and ultimately to Department of Environment.

Along with his various and persistent roles in the NACA Western Cape Branch Hans is also extremely active in Air Quality in the Western Cape. In his submission to the Clean Air Journal in 1993 (Linde, 1993) he describes the measures taken to control air pollution in the Western Cape under the Atmospheric Air Pollution Prevention Act (APPA) No. 45 of 1965. This submission was made when he was working for Air Pollution Control in the Health Department of the City of Cape Town. The air pollution control measures ranged from inspection and control of scheduled industries to the continuous monitoring of ambient air pollution so that the City could assess the level of success of their control measures. His submission also describes how

industry and the Western Cape Branch of NACA raised funds to perform a pilot study into the causes of the Brown Haze in Cape Town. This led to a major study, which in 1994 was the beginning of my career in Air Quality. For this I am always extremely grateful. After his role in the City of Cape Town ended Hans was involved in developing the Air Quality Management capability in the Province of the Western Cape. One of the initiatives of the provincial government was to start up a Western Cape Air Quality Officer's forum where air quality officials from all over the province could exchange ideas and discuss strategies for controlling air pollution in the province. Ten years later in 2016 Hans was honored at the anniversary of this forum.

It was in his retirement in 2014 that Hans served his latest stint on the Western Cape Branch Council as secretary. The branch established a model for holding single day seminars that brought together stakeholders from government and industry to debate and discuss pain points in the implementation of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (NEMAQA). These seminars increased branch membership by 139 new members in 2 years and were notable in that fees from the delegates rather than from sponsorship funded them. What was crucial to their success was the ease at which Hans was able to persuade high profile speakers (from inside and outside the Province) to present at these seminars. With his experience arranging annual NACA conferences over the years arranging a one-day seminar was probably pretty simple for Hans. However, he was the driving force behind securing a suitable venue and ensuring that interactions with the delegates were calm and professional. In my opinion these seminars were indistinguishable from a commercially run course.

It is difficult to condense Hans's contribution to NACA and to the Air Quality Industry into such a short submission. We at the Western Cape Branch look forward to Hans's contribution as a member of our Branch as he has been since 1973. The Branch Council will miss his experience, drive, integrity and wisdom, but are pretty sure that he will keep challenging the Branch to move forward as one of it's members.

References

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Linde H, Air Pollution Control in the Western Cape, 1993

NACA Western Cape Chairman's Report, 17 May 2016